

- B1*
Contd
- Sub*
E2
cont.
- a) dispersing the hydroxypropylmethylcellulose in the salt solution to form a suspension,
 - b) heating the suspension of step (a) to about 95°C., allowing any undissolved material to settle and discarding the supernatant liquid above the undissolved material,
 - c) resuspending the undissolved material to form a second suspension of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose and heating the second suspension to form a thick gel,
 - d) filtering the gel through a series of filters ^{*line omitted*} to form a clean solution,
 - e) autoclaving the clean solution,
 - f) cooling the autoclaved clean solution and filtering the cooled solution, and
 - g) degassing the filtered cooled solution.

Please amend claim 27 to read as follows:

B2
ME
FE

27. (Amended) A process of preparing a [high viscosity] sterile solution of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose in an aqueous solution, the [high viscosity,] sterile solution having a zero shear viscosity in excess of 15,000 cps and being non-toxic, non-pyrogenic, and substantially free of particulate matter and gels harmful to the human eye, the process comprising the steps of:

- a) dispersing hydropropylmethylcellulose in a first part of the aqueous solution to form a suspension;

all
underline
no brackets